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PAGANISM

Pagan health providers respond to the Delta variant surge



By Stacy Psaros | September 2, 2021

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MIAMI – “I wish people knew how truly dire the situation is. The lack of beds and staff to care for patients is NOT conjecture; we have hospitals in our area unable to perform non-covid-related surgical procedures or accept transfers of patients for specialty care due to lack of bed availability. We have a responsibility to be able to care for our community, and right now that is very tenuous,” says Incendia, a Strega and cardiac nurse describing her hospital’s conditions in South Florida.



Image credit: 圆张 from Pixabay

Across the country, cities and states are attempting to get back to the “new normal” following outreach efforts to vaccinate their populations. As of today, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that 52.6% of Americans are fully vaccinated, and 61.9% of Americans have received at least one shot. With just a little over half of the population vaccinated, there is still hesitancy and outright rejection of receiving the SARS-CoV-2, or COVID-19 vaccine.

Anti-mask and anti-vaccination demonstrations that have increasingly involved threats and violence continue to occur across the U.S. and around the world. In the meantime, hospitals across the United States are once more feeling the effects of an unvaccinated populace as the number of hospitalizations has more than doubled over the month of August.

TWH spoke with hospital workers in hot spots across the country to find out what is happening in their units, counties, and states.

A new type of patient

Overall, there has been a shift in the type of patients hospitals and doctors' offices are seeing with positive COVID-19 tests. The speed of transmission and onset of symptoms with the delta variant is also significantly different than the first wave of illness experienced in 2020.

Penelope who identifies fitting into Paganism more than anything else is a nurse in South Florida. She says, "Adult patients coming in now are much younger, in the 30-50 age group. They are sicker and tend to go downhill very much more rapidly."

Amanda, a Pagan who works in a primary care office in Tampa agrees, "With Delta, people seem to be catching it quicker and getting dangerously sick very quickly."

But it's not just younger adults who are coming in with COVID-19 complications.

"We are seeing about 3 to 5 times as many children (infant to 18 years) having to be admitted because of covid. Many required ICU, many have problems with their heart muscles because of the inflammation from the virus," Penelope reports.

Pantera, and nurse and Strega, agrees that her hospital has also seen a significant uptick in the number of pediatric patients they are treating for covid. "Kids," was her simple response when asked about the difference in patients she's seeing at her FL hospital.

"Last year, all our kids were exposure cases. Meaning, they were exposed to covid but they were not exhibiting any covid symptoms. They came in due to non-covid symptoms and it was only on our now-routine covid test that we found out they were covid positive." She continued, "This year, with Delta, we're receiving triple the number of pediatric cases, and they're all covid-positive patients with definite covid symptoms. Their bodies are taking it harder than they did last year, too. This year, we've already sent two of our kids for heart transplants. And our adult patients are coming in sicker, getting sicker faster, and dying quicker."

A recent report by the Association of American Pediatrics agrees with these observations. According to their [most recent report](#), "Since the pandemic began, children represented 14.6% of total cumulated cases. For the week ending August 19, children were 22.4% of reported weekly COVID-19 cases."

In addition, pregnant women are another demographic who are being impacted by COVID-19.

"Pregnancy lowers the immune response, so [pregnant women] are more susceptible to the virus," says Penelope. "Our ICUs have several pregnant mothers in various stages of critical illness. Once they are at a certain point, if we do not do emergency c-sections both mother and baby will die."

Penelope explained that this is a severe consequence of covid hospitals are seeing and has led to second and third-trimester miscarriages, as well as babies born prematurely who require critical care.

Catherine identifies as Pagan and works in obstetrics and gynecology in Pennsylvania. She reports an uptick in patients denying certain treatments and tests that are common during pregnancy, such as STD screening, the Tdap vaccine (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus vaccine), and others that are important to ensure the health of the unborn baby.

"This is a result of the huge amount of misinformation about covid and the vaccine," she says, "and it is highlighting the fact that many people are becoming more and more anti-science, or suspicious of treatments and vaccines that have decades of proven safety."

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is not the only illness that can strike. When your body is attacked by SARS-CoV2, secondary opportunistic illnesses, like pneumonia, can settle in.

Amanda has this advice, "If you end up getting a secondary illness, your doctor's office can help keep you healthy with teledoc, or something similar to help see you in a safe setting."

She emphasizes that you should not be afraid to reach out to your own physician for assistance. "It is safe to come in for health concerns and, more importantly, to know that your doctors and nurses are concerned for your well-being."

Changing attitudes

Marian is a Witch who works at a South Florida hospital. She is one of many health care workers expressing frustration at the more lax attitude people seem to have regarding COVID-19.



Image credit: [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

She told *TWH* that patients and their families “act like there isn’t any more danger because the vaccine is available. This is especially troubling since I work with immunocompromised patients.”

Amanda agrees, “During the first phase, people were more careful in general, and seemed to understand the symptoms.” She continued, “With Delta, even though people are catching it quicker, they’re not wearing masks as quickly and seem to be unafraid of traveling.”

When asked how to combat these changing attitudes, Catherine had this to say, “Start small, reach out to family members or friends who are more reasonable and willing to listen to the facts about covid and the vaccine. The smallest spark can spread like wildfire, the trick is getting the information into the hands of those who can take it the farthest.”

Pantera concurs, “The best thing anyone can do for us now is get the word out to encourage people to get vaccinated, wear masks, and protect each other.”

Hospitals respond to the surge

Hospitals around the country are reporting worker shortages in keeping up with the latest surge of COVID-19 patients.

In places like Florida, Governor DeSantis is [considering allowing out-of-state nurses](#) to work in Florida hospitals to make up for the shortages.

Incendia describes several of the factors that are contributing to these shortages, “You have healthcare workers being driven out of the industry due to burnout, physical and emotional stress of the situation. Many of my colleagues are out of work due to illness. Yes, even staff members who are fully vaccinated are contracting covid, albeit milder cases, and having to stay home, exacerbating the staffing shortages.”

“Morale ebbs and flows depending on severity of cases and staffing,” adds Penelope. “There are never enough nurses or respiratory therapists for the number and severity of patients. Mostly, people are worn out, frustrated, and soul weary. We have been fighting this monster for a year and a half. We have also been fighting so much misinformation... A year ago, we were heroes, a designation most of us were never comfortable being called. Now, we are liars and charlatans who know nothing.”

Catherine echoed the same sentiment: “At the beginning of the pandemic, we were all ‘heroes.’ Now, we are considered to be part of some ‘deep state’ conspiracy network that is microchipping people and not to be trusted.”

Many hospitals are offering monetary incentives for picking up extra shifts, especially on nights and weekends. But with so many staff members already working extra days, days off and downtime are much needed. Some hospitals have started having their own site

on and downtime are much needed. Some hospitals have started having their on-site clergy make rounds daily and check in with staff, as well as offering courses on mindfulness practices, motivation, and positivity. Others offer breaks during the day for employee de-stressing activities, such as free food trucks and games.

Unfortunately, the staffing shortages persist.

"We are hemorrhaging staff like every hospital in America," says Penelope. "We onboard new nurses every 3 weeks, 10-12 at a time, and it is still not enough."

How do healers heal?

Healthcare workers are under extreme stress and pressure.

"Here is the thing, which I think your readers will completely understand," Penelope confides, "The great majority of us who go into the healing/caring professions tend to be empaths. That is how we connect with those in our care and to intuit their needs even when they cannot tell us. I cannot tell you how many times in my career I have just 'known' something about a patient, and it was proven correct. That gift is now a curse for so many because we are not only dealing with more morbidity and mortality than we have ever seen in our careers, but we are also having to be the emotional support for families who cannot be there with their loved ones. We must put on a brave face to comfort someone who is dying who will NOT get to feel the touch of a loved one before they go. We must be the support for each other, taking turns and hoping that we aren't all crashing on the same day. We must try to discard that yoke before we get home to our families, so they are not affected by our despair."

So how do healthcare workers discard that yoke?

Having a core support group helps many healthcare workers leave behind some of the stress of the day. Whether these are partners who can absorb some of their negative stress energy and turn it into laughter or a group of confidants who trade memes and otherwise swap funny anecdotes does help. Amanda has a group of friends who are all Pagan whom she speaks with daily. They check in on each other, make sure they're all okay, and build each other up. They will make the time to connect in person safely for better connections when they need it.

For most of the healthcare workers we spoke to, the main outlet is taking the sacred time they need for themselves to recharge and be able to face the next day.

"I devote some of my sacred time to meditation, reflection, connecting with nature, and some physical activity," shares Incendia. "When I can, I combine physical movement with connection to nature; this is deeply healing and soothing to my Spirit."

Penelope agrees, "I feel the most spiritual and receive the most healing when I can be outside. Whether that is kayaking, walking trails, swimming in the ocean, or just exploring the grass with bare feet, that is my altar."

What can you do?

With the influx of COVID-positive patients in hospitals across the country, many people are dying from things they should not be dying from. Hospitals are running out of everything — staff energy, supplies, oxygen, and rooms.

Just this week, [CNN reported on Daniel Wilkinson](#), a US Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient who died due to gallstones after being unable to find an ICU bed in 5 different states.

Catherine says her husband recently had issues related to cancer treatment and had to wait 5 hours for a bed at their hospital while he was actively bleeding. This was due to a lack of beds caused by the increase in critical COVID-19 patients. One of our *TWH* readers, who wished to remain anonymous, recently lost her husband due to lack of beds at their local hospital.

When asked what they would say to someone who is currently not taking all precautions that the CDC guidelines recommend, our healthcare workers were nearly unanimous in their responses.

"Listen to your MD's and reputable sources. The vaccine is safe," says Marian, "and wearing a mask may be an inconvenience and occasionally uncomfortable, but do it anyway."

Amanda reminds us to reach out to our doctors if we are feeling sick, "Let your doctor

know. Doctors' offices can and will reach out to check on you."

"Get vaccinated. Take precautions. The best thing anyone can do to support healthcare workers is not make our jobs more difficult," says Incendia.

Penelope agrees, "The most helpful things that anyone in the community can do is get vaccinated if they are eligible, wear masks when in gatherings, and maintain social distancing."

She also encourages everyone to advocate for following the recommendations from the CDC, and fight misinformation by offering responses that are factual and nonconfrontational.

While most of the medical staff *TWH* spoke with support everyone receiving the vaccine, some working in the medical industry expressed dissatisfaction and a sense of betrayal over the decision.

Kim, a nurse in Pennsylvania who identifies as Pagan, does not agree that vaccine mandates are the answer, "Everyone has a right to decide what to do with and how to treat their own body."

With regards to the guidelines put out by the CDC and other groups during the initial months of the pandemic, she said, "The sources that we are supposed to be able to trust have changed their stance multiple times contradicting themselves. Science is an art as well as practice and changes over time. I feel that guidelines have been politically motivated and not completely based on science, which causes doubt."

TWH Note: Because SARS-CoV-19 is a novel disease, scientists and public health authorities have been learning in real time, and knowledge about COVID-19 and its variants was, and still is evolving. [Accurate and up-to-date information about COVID-19 is available via the Center for Disease Control.](#) Information regarding the [Food and Drug Administration's approval of the Pfizer vaccine is available via the FDA.](#)

When asked about hospitals that are imposing vaccine mandates on employees to continue working there, she added, "Medical providers that took care of covid positive patients a year ago are being threatened with job loss if they do not get vaccinated. We [healthcare workers] are still dispensable and the most important thing is the bottom line on a piece of paper on an accountant's desk. It seems as though Big Business has either forgotten about or simply does not care about the human element, causing a pandemic of distrust that pervades into the homes and souls of everyone and everything."

Empathy works both ways

When asked what our community of readers could do to offer support, the most common answers were "Listen to us" and "Pray for us."



Image credit: [Lolame](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Amanda suggests, "Listen when people are talking who work in these fields. If you have

Aminda suggests, "Listen when people are talking who work in these fields. If you have friends or loved ones on the front lines, check in on them and make sure they are okay. Invite them out for a drink or a movie, or offer to simply hang out and talk."

Marian agrees with this, but also reminds us, "Don't take it personally if your friends are too tired to go out and do anything. Maybe change the going out to you coming over for a movie and take out. Be aware that sensitive to everyone's needs."

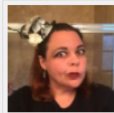
Make sure to check in on those who you know who are in the front lines at their local hospitals.

"My friends sent me a care package this week. It was a little box, filled with small things, but it showed me they were thinking about me," Pantera shares, "and it make me feel seen. Like someone knows it's bad for us and was trying to lighten my day." She also makes a point to say a prayer for other hospital workers when they get off the elevator on the covid floor. "I always wish them a good shift, and say a small prayer for them that they can get through the day."

Penelope asks simply for prayers. "Offer prayers for us. We will make it through this, but there are going to be quite a few who may be broken at the end. Pray that they can maintain their resilience."

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ABOUT STACY PSAROS



Stacy Psaros (pronouns she, her) has worked in digital marketing and media for over 20 years. By day, she's the Digital Marketing Director for a major on-line web presence. There she is responsible for crafting and sending of email campaigns, social media engagement, SEO, web design and display marketing. She has served as Publications Officer for Everglades Moon Local Council, member of Covenant of the Goddess, for over 10 years, and volunteers her time as Social Media Maven for the Mystic South Conference. Stacy was born in NY and migrated south to FL 20 years ago. She's active in her local and state-wide Pagan community. She is a Strega and a Faery Seership Apprentice. When she's not linked into the Internet Matrix-style, she's busy working towards her 3rd Degree Black Belt, working on crafty projects, reading, and playing handservant to her tribe of cats.



More by Stacy

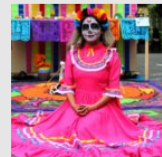


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Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

fight misinformation by offering responses that are factual and nonconfrontational

Sorry, I'm not about to be "nonconfrontational" with Friends of Covid who threaten the lives of schoolchildren in my community and create overcrowding at hospitals I depend on.

1 ^ | v · Share



Gallifreyan Tauri → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

Being confrontational doesn't work. All that will happen is that the "Friends of Covid" will become more stubborn against getting vaccinated, using masks, social distancing etc. That basically will do the exact opposite of what you want.

4 ^ | v · Share



Baruch Dreamstalker → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago

Being confrontational worked very nicely for the Taliban, the Viet Cong, the Union and the Minutemen.

^ | v · Share



Gallifreyan Tauri → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago · edited

That wasn't "confrontational". That was intimidation, terror and threats of death, and they had lethal weapons too. Is that how you plan on confronting those who don't accede to common sense? Are you planning on using a weapon to force them? That *still* isn't going to change their minds and will *still* end up doing nothing more than hating you and the beliefs you hold.

2 ^ | v · Share ›



Baruch Dreamstalker → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago · edited

I anticipate a moving quarantine of the willingly unvaccinated. Vaccine passports. ICU triage based on vaccination status. School boards that bow to anti-vax parents over masking, having their authority taken away by the National Guard. Anti-vax governors tied up in legal knots while sensible school boards enact sensible mask mandates.

Because there is no vaccine for stupid.

The population that follows health science will protect itself from the Delta epidemic of the unvaccinated, and if you think that can be done without confrontation... Well, they can hate me all they want, but they may not breathe on me.

2 ^ | v · Share ›



Olivia Moffitt → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

While some of the unvaccinated are just hesitant, I do have a theory that many of the people who vehemently refuse have both personal problems with authority (based on their experiences) and paranoia about things they don't understand and/or don't trust. In my readings online at least it appears to me that while there are a lot of antivaxxers on the Republican side right now, there are also a lot on the Democrat side that are not mentioned. It's a bit more complex than either/or. I know you didn't mention that, but I see a lot of comments online focused on one side of the equation, so I thought I'd point that out.

Anyway, the whole vaccination/anti vax thing kind of reminds me of what happened to me in the ward, or rather, I see some of the anti vaxxers sounding exactly like my roommate in the ward. Basically, I had an MP3 player and she thought it was a gun and I was going to shoot her. I knew if I continued to use it, she would get more agitated and possibly violent, so my only choice was to put it away completely/not use it. She also kept on going on and on about the government being after her and how everyone was out to get her. I felt bad for her that her mind was so scary that it painted everything that way, even when it wasn't true. In my mind, especially with the way people express themselves online, it

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v · Share ›



Star Bustamonte → Olivia Moffitt · a month ago

There is, in fact, a weird little subgroup on the left that is comprised of yoga/New Age peeps that are very conspiracy-minded and refuse to get vaccinated or mask up. I have seen a few of these folks in the shop I work in. However, the majority of those opposed to vaccination and masks seem to be more oriented as part of the far right—at least in my region.

4 ^ | v · Share ›



Olivia Moffitt → Star Bustamonte · a month ago

You have an even more valid viewpoint, I feel, as yours is based in your lived experience, while mine is based on observations of comments online and how people are talking on all sides. There is definitely a weird convergence between New Age beliefs and the far right (two things that on the surface don't seem to match up).

2 ^ | v · Share ›



kenofken → Olivia Moffitt · a month ago

What we should do is start a viral rumor on the conspiracy web that the real cure for Covid are select antipsychotic and mood stabilizing drugs. Tell them the evidence is overwhelming but suppressed by the government and that The Man doesn't want you to have access to these pills. Also that they only work in maximum doses and if they are taken every single day without fail.

Within a couple of weeks, they'll come along for the vaccine without remembering why they were ever freaked out in the first place...

2 ^ | v · Share ›



Gallifreyan Tauri → kenofken · a month ago

An interesting suggestion.

1 ^ | v · Share ›



Olivia Moffitt → kenofken · a month ago

Lol! Love it! Playing mind games to beat the mind games. That would honestly probably work. :-)

^ | v · Share ›



Gallifreyan Tauri → Olivia Moffitt · a month ago

"When you have people in such a state, there is nothing you can do to stop it, their mind is already too far gone. "

Exactly. I have a neighbor who's been diagnosed as bipolar, but he's also very paranoid about certain subjects due to his upbringing. When he gets into that state, I just try to direct the conversation in another completely unrelated area and he goes along with it because, like me, he's a Gemini and we just jump from one subject to another without blinking. :)

2 ^ | v - Share >



Olivia Moffitt → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago

:-) That's a great strategy! Mental illness is a tricky thing, but easily redirected if you have the mental prowess, which can be both dangerous and used for good.

1 ^ | v - Share >



Andrea Joy, Wiccan Clergy → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

This is not the same. Even in a case where someone is not wearing a mask, where it is mandated, the best thing to do is tell a manager.

To me we have to think about the goal, and all scientific studies show that being confrontational does not work, as people dig in deeper to protect their core identities.

The one ray of hope is now that one of the vaccines are FDA approved some businesses are mandating vaccines. It may be that this kind of mandating works when other efforts have failed.

2 ^ | v - Share >



Baruch Dreamstalker → Andrea Joy, Wiccan Clergy · a month ago

"Calling the manager" is getting someone else to be confrontational on your behalf. Studies cannot show that confrontation doesn't work, because confrontation hasn't really been tried.

^ | v - Share >



kenofken → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

The problem with confrontation in this country is everyone has a gun and is now allowed to carry them anywhere at all times. For a while it seemed like every week or two there was another new story about some psychopath killing a store clerk for asking them to comply with a rule not even of their own making. For every one of those extreme examples, there were 100,000 lesser forms of assault or abuse. Its a huge reason why restaurants and other front line service industries can't attract any workers these days. That crap isn't worth any money and certainly not \$12 an hour.

3 ^ | v - Share >



kenofken → Andrea Joy, Wiccan Clergy · a month ago

A lot of places are doing that now, and I hope it continues. There will always be a few hardcore holdouts, but when it comes to losing a job, at least a good one, or having to fork over \$200 a month more for health insurance, you'll see a lot of people get with the program.

2 ^ | v - Share >



Oliver Haddo → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago

What would work is letting those eligible for vaccines but who refuse them die in the streets or in their homes. They don't want anyone dictating anyone to them, so fine, don't. But freedom means living (or not) with the consequences of your choices.

2 ^ | v - Share >



A. Marina Fournier · a month ago

I heartily concur that caring for carers, paid or not (I'm not paid for dealing with a belle-mère in dementia), is important.

Both Pope Francis and Martin Luther exhorted Christians to take precautions—now including vaccination—to show love for their God, as well as of one's fellow humans, as Christians are enjoined to do.

Love for one's self suggests doing what one can to preserve one's health and that of your nearest & dearest.

Stacy, I love this photo of you gurning for the camera. I've taken evidentiary selfies of me after a serious argument with the sidewalk, complete with extreme pout. Then there are the photos of me and an empty teacup, with a teabag attached to my forehead to hide the goose-egg from said argument. Two years later, still trying to wear down the cattywampus lump.

1 ^ | v - Share >



Stacy Psaros Mod → A. Marina Fournier · a month ago

Aww, thank you! When a camera is pointed at me (even if I'm doing it myself) my face just... won't stay "normal". I have a few that are closer to normal, but... I always make silly faces. :)

1 ^ | v - Share >



Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

Point-by-point refutation in increasingly tiny comment spaces is bad for my eyesight, so I am indulging in this general response.

You opponents of confrontation are lovely souls, and I would rather Circle with the likes of you than a gang of bastards like me. But the Donald and his GOP wing have made this political, and it's going to take us hardliners to defend me and mine -- and, even in the possible face of your hypocritical disapproval, you and yours -- against the legions of stupid.

I reluctantly learned to ignore people like you, for your own good, in the wake of 9/11. I still know how.

1 ^ | v - Share >



NeoWayland · a month ago · edited

Dogma doesn't tolerate dissent. Science is never settled.

I've been biting my tongue here. You see, I've seen this before. So have you. The "climate change crisis." Or for that matter, monotheists dictating Which Religion Will Be Allowed and What Is Not Moral Behavior. It's the same argument, only the language has changed. Because if you can claim higher moral authority **before** your opponent can even start, then there is no way anyone can dissent without attacking the very idea of "God." Or "Science." Or "feminism." Or, or, or. It's as absolutist as possible. "You're with us or against us." Only the crusade matters.

The *reasoning* doesn't matter, other research doesn't matter, the Unbeliever Must Be Eradicated. Canceled. Imprisoned. Silenced. Isolated. Made helpless by the Overwhelming Power of Law.

Because it's **politics** disguised as science. Or revealed knowledge. Politics is about controlling the other. One of the easiest ways is to scare someone and then act For the Greater Good. No questions allowed. No dissent.

I'm not going to discuss the science here because people don't want to hear it. What I am going to do (again) is point out the irony that American neopagans would embrace this "solution."

2 ^ | v 1 - Share >



Baruch Dreamstalker → NeoWayland · a month ago

Neo, you are a charter member of Friends of Covid, and yours is a voice I am already ignoring.

1 ^ | v - Share >



NeoWayland → Baruch Dreamstalker · a month ago

Your choice.

But was I wrong in anything I posted?

^ | v 1 - Share >



Gallifreyan Tauri → NeoWayland · a month ago

Yes. Science asks questions that may never be answered; religion has answers that may never be questioned. I guess a corollary (?) to that would be politics has answers that may never be questioned.

1 ^ | v - Share >



NeoWayland → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago

Put aside the idea of science as "holy writ" for just a bit.

Think back. Isn't this what the Crusaders want? A Higher Cause *For Your Own Good* that no one Dare Question. And of course the Holy Writ and Anointed Prophets May Not Be Criticized.

Science by it's nature is all about questioning. When politicians and international companies use the **language** of science to keep you from asking questions, don't you owe it to yourself and yours to look behind the curtain and ignore the spectacle for just a bit?

Qui bono?

1 ^ | v - Share >



Baruch Dreamstalker → Gallifreyan Tauri · a month ago

Science and religion have different authority structures.

In Judaism, ham is not kosher. Doesn't matter how many Jews have a BLT at lunch. The rule is top-down.

In science, an experiment does not have the results it yields because we have a law of conservation of energy. We have that law because that experiment, properly done, has those results. The rule is bottom-up.

Alas, science is often badly taught, as though it were top-down. It looks like a matter of opinion, in a world where no opinion is sacrosanct. It gives the illusion that "I don't *think* so" is a valid rebuttal. It is in fact no more valid than "I saw it on the Internet."

^ | v - Share >



Beth · a month ago

Thank you for this article! While the doctor's office I work for doesn't treat Covid cases (gyn oncology), we have seen the effects as well. Right now the hospitals in our area are also not allowing any surgery cases that will require an overnight (or longer) stay as they simply do not have the staff or the bed space. Only cancer cases that can't wait or simple ones that are easy out patient procedures are being allowed right now. Which means that a lot of our patients who are in pain, have to continue to suffer longer. Many of them end up in the ER when they simply can't take it anymore and even then, many are being sent home with pain meds which don't address the underlying problem. This isn't just a short term thing, for many people it will have long term implications. Just like a car, if you don't fix something in your body it's a domino effect and the longer it goes on the more systems it can affect. It broke my heart to read about those people whose family members died while trying to find treatment due to lack of beds. The folks who don't want to wear a mask and don't want to get a vaccine really do not understand just how much their choices affect the lives of other people! "Your rights end where mine begin. My rights end where yours begin." Where is the dividing line? The answer is, there really isn't one. We are not individuals, we are all one social organism and we are all connected.

5 ^ | v - Share >


Gallifreyan Tauri → Beth · a month ago
 Same up here in NE TN.
 1 ^ | v · Share ›


kenofken → Beth · a month ago
 It's insane that we're putting the willfully ignorant ahead of cancer patients or anyone else who needs serious ongoing care. They should get dead last priority in the health system.
 4 ^ | v · Share ›


Ellen Evert Hopman · a month ago
 "Kim, a nurse in Pennsylvania who identifies as Pagan, does not agree that vaccine mandates are the answer, "Everyone has a right to decide what to do with and how to treat their own body."
 That's hilarious now that Texas has instituted the Abortion Gestapo, complete with bounties for those who tattle on any woman who wants to end an unwanted pregnancy (rape, incest, severe deformity in the fetus, poverty and she already has kids, etc.). That sentiment is just a meme, with no basis in reality in the USA (for women anyway).
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Gallifreyan Tauri → Ellen Evert Hopman · a month ago
 That "nurse" needs to go back to school to study how vaccines work and why we've pretty much eliminated diseases like smallpox and polio *from the planet*. Zhuzh.
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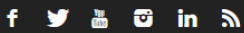
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